

Lesson IX.

THE MULTITUDES FED

May 29, 1910

BETWEEN THE LESSONS—The Lesson follows close upon that for last Sabbath.

GOLDEN TEXT—Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life.—John 6 : 35.

Memorize vs. 19, 20. THE LESSON PASSAGE—Matthew 15 : 29-39. Study Matthew 14 : 13-21 ; 15 : 29-39.

29 And Je'sus departed ¹ from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee ; and ² went up into ³ a mountain, and sat ⁴ down there.

30 And ⁵ great multitudes came unto him, having with them ⁶ those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many others, and ⁷ cast them down at ⁸ Je'sus feet ; and he healed them :

31 Inasmuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb ⁹ to speak, the maimed ¹⁰ to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind ¹¹ to see : and they glorified the God of Is'rael.

32 ¹² Then Je'sus called ¹³ his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat : and I ¹⁴ will not send them away fasting, lest ¹⁵ they faint in the way.

33 And ¹⁶ his disciples say unto him, Whence

Revised Version—¹ Omit from ; ² he ; ³ the ; ⁴ Omit down ; ⁵ there came unto him great multitudes ; ⁶ the lame ; ⁷ they ; ⁸ his ; ⁹ speaking ; ¹⁰ Omit to be whole, and the lame walking ; ¹¹ seeing ; ¹² And Jesus ; ¹³ unto him his disciples ; ¹⁴ would ; ¹⁵ haply ; ¹⁶ many loaves in a desert place ; ¹⁷ small ; ¹⁸ Omit them ; ¹⁹ multitudes ; ²⁰ that which remained over of the broken pieces ; ²¹ entered into the boat ; ²² borders of Magadan.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—The multitudes fed, Matt. 14 : 13-21. T.—The multitudes fed, Matt. 15 : 29-39. W.—A boy's store, John 6 : 1-13. Th.—Daily manna, Ex. 16 : 11-18. F.—Enough, and to spare, 2 Kgs. 4 : 38-44. S.—The hungry fed, Ps. 107 : 1-9. S.—The Bread of life, John 6 : 41-51.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Soon after Jesus had learned of John the Baptist's death (see last Lesson, ch. 14 : 1-12), the Twelve returned (Mark 6 : 30) to Jesus at Capernaum, from their mission of healing and teaching, Lesson II., ch. 10 : 1-15). The Master and His disciples prepared to go across to the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee for quiet and rest. Crowds followed them, however, and Jesus spent the day healing their sick. The same evening He fed a multitude comprising five thousand men, besides women and children. The feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle which all four Gospels record, and John tells us that after it, the people wished to make Jesus their King, John 6 : 15.

How Jesus prevented this, sending the disciples away in their boat and dismissing the crowds, while He Himself went up into a near-by mountain, to spend the night in solitary prayer ; how, in the early morning, He came to His storm-tossed disciples, walking on the sea and saved Peter, is told in Lesson X., ch. 14 : 22-36.

I. THE HEALING.—29. Jesus departed from thence ; from the region about Tyre and Sidon in Phœnicia, the strip of land along the Mediterranean to the north of Palestine. Here Jesus had healed the daughter of a Syrophenician woman, vs. 21-28. Mark tells us that our Lord returned towards the eastern shore of the sea of Galilee, through Decapolis, the district of ten cities, Mark 7 : 31. A mountain ; not a particular mountain, but a hill district, then, as now, wild and uninhabited. Sat down ; perhaps to teach the disciples.

30, 31. Great multitudes ; drawn to Jesus by the report widely spread of His miracle in healing the deaf and dumb man related by Mark (see Mark 7 : 31-37). The crowds came in search of healing for

should we have so ¹⁶ much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude ?

34 And Je'sus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye ? And they said, Seven, and a few ¹⁷ little fishes.

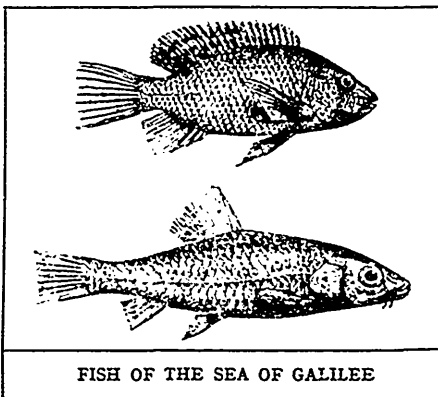
35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and ¹⁸ gave thanks, and brake ¹⁹ them, and gave to ²⁰ his disciples, and the disciples to the ²¹ multitude.

37 And they did all eat, and were filled : and they took up ²² of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

39 And he sent away the ²³ multitude, ²⁴ and took ship, and came into the ²⁵ coasts of Mag'dala.



FISH OF THE SEA OF GALILEE

those amongst them who were lame, blind, dumb, maimed (that is, bent, as with rheumatism), etc. Cast them down ; in eager haste and care-free confidence. Healed them. His pity and His power were both as great as their need. Wondered ; as we wonder still, when we read the story. Saw. There was no doubt about the miracles. Glorified the God of Israel. These people were heathen, but in the healing they now beheld the power of the true God and praised Him.

II. THE FEEDING.—32-34. Called his disciples ; the Twelve. I have compassion. Jesus' pity is an inexhaustible fountain. Three days . . . nothing to eat. Their supply of food had run out. Sent them away . . . faint. Mark says that many of them were far from home (Mark 8 : 3), and even